



# Lead Fact Sheet



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## What is it?

Lead (Pb) is a solid metal that can be found in the air in a dust-like form called particulate matter.

## Where can it be found?

Lead can be found in many different places including:

- Leaded gasoline (which is no longer sold in the U.S.)
- Paint used in old houses and on some cars
- Smelters - which are used in metal refineries
- Manufacturing process of lead storage batteries
- Contaminated soil and dust

## What are the health effects of lead?

- Brain and other nervous system damage, especially in children
- Digestive problems
- Reproductive system damage
- Kidney damage
- Learning disabilities in children

## What are the environmental effects of lead?

- Can be harmful to wildlife
- Contaminated soil can damage plants

## What can you do to protect yourself from lead poisoning?

- Don't disturb, play with, or eat paint chips.
- Wash your hands immediately after playing in dirt and never eat dirt.



Bureau of Air Quality



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